

shell. Normally, however, the tail is carried adpressed to the shell, curled up behind either of the hind legs.

The above details apply to adult specimens.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

BOMBAY,

C. McCANN.

August 4, 1937.

XX.—OCCURRENCE OF *PSAMMOPHIS CONDANARUS* ?
IN BERAR.

A snake found at Chikalda (Berar) at about 3,500 ft. in the Melghat hills by E. Berchten in June 1937 seems to come nearest to the above. It agrees with the descriptions of this species by Wall (*How to Identify the Snakes of India*, 1923) and Boulenger (*F.B.I., Reptilia & Batrachia*, 1890) except on the following points:—It disagrees with Wall in having 15 instead of 17 rows at 2 head-lengths behind head and only 1st (not 1st and second) supralabials touching the nasal. The localities given by Wall are 'Cutch, Punjab, Sind, Ganges basin and Burma'.

It disagrees with Boulenger mainly in colour (rather markedly) and in the distribution which he gives as 'This species has hitherto only been recorded from the Punjab, Cutch, the North-West Provinces, Simla, Bengal, the Kurnool district, and Pegu'.

The following is a general description of the specimen sent. Length 10 in. Costals 15; 17; 13; Ventrals 173; Sub-caudals 74; Anal divided; one rather long loreal. Scaling of the tree-snake type without apical pits or ventral keel.

Colour: The head is pale olive brown above with a darker line from the snout, passing through the eye and fading on the nape; the upper and lower lips, chin and throat are pure shining white, each infralabial and some of the adjacent scales of the throat having a rusty speck (marking a pit?) in the centre of each. The upper parts of the body are pale olive brown above fading a little on the flanks. There is a dark brown median stripe edged sharply with black formed as follows:—The vertebral row and one row on either side of it dark brown, the next row on either side has each scale dark brown on its inner edge, black in the middle and pale olive, like the rest of the upper surface, on its outer edge. The belly is yellow each ventral having a rusty line near each end. These lines are shorter in front but become almost continuous from about mid-body onwards. The iris is pale yellow and the pupil round.

FOREST OFFICE,

NAGPUR, C.P.,

E. O. SHEBBEARE.

June 19, 1937.

[The specimen referred to above was submitted to Dr. Malcolm Smith for verification and we give below his reply.